

COMMUNITY AND ECOSYSTEM-FRIENDLY PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE FEDERAL FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS

The Methow Forest Forum and North Cascades Conservation Council suggest that Methow Valley Citizens support the following principles to ensure that fuels projects on federal land are effective, and ecosystem-friendly.

- (1)** The only objective of fuels reduction projects on federal land should be to reduce wildfire risk to homes and communities.
- (2)** All fuels projects should be developed via a democratic process where all people and organizations have equal opportunity to present ideas and concerns.
- (3)** Projects should consider multiple alternatives for fuels reduction activities, and present diverse management options.
- (4)** Projects should be concentrated in the wildland-urban interface, roughly one half mile from homes and communities.
- (5)** Projects should preserve medium/large, fire-resistant trees, and require maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem function.
- (6)** The Forest Service should develop an improved fire prevention plan to reduce the frequency of human-caused fires.
- (7)** Projects should comply with existing federal laws and consider all pertinent peer-reviewed science.